Punjab Government Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY

Published by Authority

CHANDIGARH, THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026
(CHAITRA 12, 1948 SAKA)

LEGISLATIVE SUPPLEMENT

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PART 1

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, PUNJAB

NOTIFICATION

The 2nd April, 2026

No.7-Leg./2026.- The following Act of the Legislature of the State of Punjab received the assent of the Governor of Punjab on the 28th day of March, 2026, is hereby published for general information :-

THE PUNJAB REGULATION OF CRUSHER UNITS, AND STOCKISTS AND RETAILERS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2026

(Punjab Act No.6 of 2026)

AN

ACT

further to amend the Punjab Regulation of Crusher Units, and Stockists and Retailers Act, 2025.

BE it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Punjab in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

Short title, extent and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Punjab Regulation of Crusher Units, and Stockists and Retailers (Amendment) Act, 2026.

(2) It shall extend to the whole of the State of Punjab.

(3) It shall come into force on and with effect from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Substitution of preamble of Punjab Act 6 of 2025.

2. In the Punjab Regulation of Crusher Units, and Stockists and Retailers Act, 2025 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), for the existing preamble, the following preamble shall be substituted, namely: -

"to regulate the operations of Crusher Units, Stockists and Retailers in the State of Punjab in respect of raw material and derivatives obtained from the process of crushing or screening."

Amendment in section 2 of Punjab Act 6 of 2025.

3. In the principal Act, in section 2, in sub-section (1),-

(i) for clauses (d) and (e), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely: -

"(d) "Crusher Unit" means an industrial unit, including a screening plant, established for the production of derivatives;

"(e) "default of Government dues" means the default in payment of any Government dues;";

(ii) for clause (g), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:-

"(g) "derivative" means any or all of the products obtained after processing of raw material such as processed sand, gravel, stone dust etc. which is inclusive but not exhaustive;";

(iii) for clause (j), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:-

"(j) "Environmental Preservation Fund (EPF)" means a fund charged under this Act from Crusher Units for measures undertaken to mitigate environmental impacts arising out of their operation;";

(iv) for clause (l), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:-

"(l) "Government dues" means any pending fee, fund, penalty or any other charges payable to the department by the Crusher Owner(s) or Crusher Unit;";

(v) clause (m) shall be omitted;

(vi) for clause (n), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:-

"(n) "illegal processing" means any activity undertaken by a Crusher Owner or Crusher Unit for

processing of any unaccounted material;";

(vii) clause (o) shall be omitted;

(viii) after clause (o), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:-

"(oa) "legal source" means a source from which any material, including raw material, is obtained under valid permits, slips, forms, or passes issued by the Department, or in such manner as may be prescribed;

(ob) "minor minerals" shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (Central Act No. 67 of 1957);";

(ix) after clause (p), the following clause shall be inserted, namely: -

"(pa) "raw material" means any material intended for use in a Crusher Unit for the purpose of crushing and screening, and includes any unprocessed material which may be stocked and sold by a Stockist or Retailer under this Act;";

(x) after clause (q), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(qa) "Retailer" means any legal entity engaged in the purchase, storage and sale of the raw material and derivatives either within or upto five hundred meters of the municipal limit of a city or town or lal dora of the village and using only single-axle vehicles or tractor trolleys for transportation; ";

(xi) in clause (s), at the end, the word "and" shall be omitted;

(xii) for clause (t), the following shall be substituted, namely: -

" (t) "Stockist" means any legal entity engaged in the purchase, stocking and sale of raw material and derivatives at a site other than the pit Head of a mine or a Crusher Unit; and

(u) "unaccounted material" means any raw material or its derivative in respect of which a Crusher Unit, Stockist or Retailer fails to produce valid and verifiable records or returns or documents, as prescribed; or fails to justify the quantity of the material processed against electricity consumption, as may be prescribed.".

4. In the principal Act, in section 3,- Amendment in section 3 of Punjab Act 6 of 2025.

(i) sub-section (2), shall be omitted; and

(ii) in sub-section (6), for clause (c), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:-

"(c) is in default of any Government dues.".

5. In the principal Act, in section 4, for sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:-

"(3) The Government may, from time to time, prescribe a Mineral Processing Fee to be paid by the Crusher Unit for the purpose of damage to infrastructure of roads or waterways etc. as a result of the running of the Crusher Unit and to and fro transportation of raw material and derivatives from it." Amendment in section 4 of Punjab Act 6 of 2025.

6. In the principal Act, for section 5, the following section shall be substituted, namely: - Substitution of section 5 of Punjab Act 6 of 2025.

"5. Every Crusher Unit shall be liable to pay such amount, as may be prescribed, into the Environmental Preservation Fund (EPF), unless exempted under any provision of any other law for the time being in force."

Environmental Prervation Fund.

7. In the principal Act, in section 7, in sub-section (3), for clause (b), the following clause shall be substituted, Amendment in section 7 of Punjab Act 6 of 2025.

namely:-

"(b) is not in default of any Government dues; and".

Amendment in section 8 of Punjab Act 6 of 2025.

8. In the principal Act, in section 8, for sub-sections (1), (2) and (3), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely: -

"(1) An officer not below the rank of District Mining Officer may suspend the registration of any Crusher Unit in such form and manner, as may be prescribed, upon the following violation(s) coming to the notice of the said officer, namely:-

(a) failure to file two consecutive monthly Returns as prescribed; or

(b) convicted by a Court under any Act which is detrimental to the purposes of this Act; or

(c) convicted by a Court under this Act; or

(d) a Notice for processing, stocking or sale of unaccounted material has been issued under this Act or the rules made thereunder; or

(e) violation of any of the provisions or directions under this Act or the rules made thereunder; or

(f) withdrawal of Consent to Operate by the Punjab Pollution Control Board; or

(g) failure to pay, within the prescribed time period, any Government dues.

(2) Where the Registration of any Crusher Unit has been suspended, the officer issuing such an order shall draw up the Articles of Suspension in such form, as may be prescribed, citing the reasons for suspension of the registration of the Crusher Unit and convey the same to the Crusher Owner within such period, as may be prescribed.

(3) The Crusher Owner may seek a review of the order of suspension within such period, as may be prescribed."

Amendment in section 9 of Punjab Act 6 of 2025.

9. In the principal Act, in section 9, for sub-section (1), the following sub- section shall be substituted, namely: -

"(1) An officer not below the rank of District Mining Officer may terminate the registration of any Crusher Unit in such form and manner, as may be prescribed, upon the following violation(s) coming to the notice of the said officer, namely:-

(a) failure to file at least three monthly returns in a Calendar Year as prescribed; or

(b) convicted by a Court under any Act which is detrimental to the purposes of this Act; or

(c) convicted by a Court under this Act; or

(d) a Notice for processing or stocking or sale of unaccounted material has been issued under this Act or the rules made thereunder; or

(e) violation of any of the provisions or directions under this Act or the rules made thereunder; or

(f) withdrawal of Consent to Operate by the Punjab Pollution Control Board; or

(g) failure to pay, within the prescribed time period, any Government dues; or

(h) in the event of three suspensions for the same reasons mentioned under suspension, termination process shall be initiated.".

Substitution of sections 10 and 11 of Punjab Act 6 of 2025.

10. In the principal Act, for sections 10 and 11, the following sections shall be substituted, namely:-

"10. (1) No Crusher Unit, Stockist or Retailer shall,-

Prohibition of certain activities.

(a) fail to file, within the prescribed time period, any or all of the Returns, as may be prescribed;

(b) sell any derivative for which the proper return has not been filed;

(c) engage in any illegal processing;

(d) stock any unaccounted material;

(e) refuse access to the premises of the Crusher Unit, Stockist or Retailer for any random or scheduled inspection by an authorized officer of the Department;

(f) refuse access to the books of accounts on the basis of which the prescribed Returns have been filed;

(g) fail to promptly inform the department about any change in the ownership of the Crusher Unit, Stockist or Retailer;

(h) fail to promptly inform the Department about any change in the Owners of the Crusher Unit, Stockist or Retailer;

(i) fail to promptly inform the Department about any Lease Deed executed with respect to the Crusher Unit, Stockist or Retailer;

(j) be leased out by a person other than the Owner of the Unit; and/or

(k) engage in monopolistic practices on its own, or in conjunction with other Crusher Units, Stockists or Retailers.

(2) A Crusher Unit(s) shall be allowed to sell the derivatives to the purchaser at a reasonable profit, provided that the price shall not be higher than the sale price, if notified under section 20 of this Act.

(3) Stockists or Retailers shall be allowed to sell the material or derivatives to the purchaser at a reasonable profit, provided that the price shall not be higher than the sale price, if notified under section 20 of this Act.

Liability.

11. (1) The Crusher Owner, Stockist or Retailer, including previous and current owner, may be made liable jointly or severally for the violation of any of the provisions of this Act.

(2) Where the Crusher Unit, Stockist or Retailer has been leased out, the owner(s) and the lessee both can be made liable jointly or severally for the violation of any of the provisions of this Act."

Amendment in section 12 of Punjab Act 6 of 2025.

11. In the principal Act, in section 12, sub-section (7) shall be omitted.

Amendment in section 15 of Punjab Act 6 of 2025.

12. In the principal Act, in section 15,-

(i) for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely: -

"(1) The District Mining Officer may suspend the license of a Stockist or a Retailer in such form and man as may be prescribed, in case of following violation(s) coming to the notice of the said officer, namely:-

(a) failure to file two consecutive monthly Returns as prescribed; or

(b) convicted by a Court under any Act which is detrimental to the purposes of this Act; or

(c) convicted by a Court under this Act; or

(d) a Notice for stocking or sale of unaccounted material has been issued under this Act or the rules made thereunder; or

(e) violation of any of the provisions or directions under this Act or the rules made thereunder; or

(f) failure to pay, within the prescribed time period, any Government dues."; and

(ii) for sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:-

(3) Where the license of a Stockist or Retailer has been suspended for non-payment of Government dues, as assessed by the District Mining Officer, the Stockist or Retailer may file an appeal within thirty days against the original demand notice, by paying payment of the prescribed percentage of the Government dues. In all such cases, the suspension

of the license shall remain in abeyance until the final decision of the appeal or the expiry of the validity of the licence for that calendar year, whichever is earlier:

Provided that pending the appeal, the Stockist or Retailer may be allowed to apply for renewal of the license for the next year on payment of the prescribed fee, subject to fulfillment of all eligibility conditions.".

13. In the principal Act, for section 16, the following section shall be substituted, namely: -

Amendment in section 16 of Punjab Act 6 of 2025.

"16. (1) The District Mining Officer may terminate the license of a Stockist or Retailer, in such form and manner, as may be prescribed, in case of following violation(s) coming to the notice of the said officer, namely:

Power to terminate a Stockist or Retailer license.

(a) failure to file at least three monthly returns in a Calendar Year as prescribed; or

(b) convicted by a Court under any Act which is detrimental to the purposes of this Act; or

(c) convicted by a Court under this Act; or

(d) a Notice for stocking or sale of unaccounted material has been issued under this Act or the rules made thereunder; or

(e) violation of any of the provisions or directions under this Act or the rules made thereunder; or

(f) failure to pay, within the prescribed time period, any Government dues; or

(g) in the event of three suspensions for the same reasons mentioned under suspension, termination process shall be initiated.

(2) No order of termination of the license of a Stockist or Retailer shall be passed without affording an opportunity of hearing.".

14. In the principal Act, after section 16, in Part-V, the following section shall be inserted, namely: -

Insertion of section 16-A in Punjab Act 6 of 2025.

"16-A. The Crusher Units, Stockists and Retailers shall submit such reports and returns, relating to the quantity of input material, the quantity of material processed, the electricity consumed, the quantity of material sold, and any other prescribed matter, in such form and manner, and within such period as may be prescribed."

Reports and Returns.

15. In the principal Act, in section 17, for sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely: -

Amendment in section 17 of Punjab Act 6 of 2025.

"(3) An appeal shall lie before the Director against every original order passed under sub-section (1) of section 9 of this Act, provided that the appeal has been filed within thirty days of the passing of such an original order:

Provided that where the original order has been passed by the Director, the appeal shall lie before the Government:

Provided further that where the original order has been passed for failure to pay Government dues, the Crusher Owner or Crusher Unit may file an appeal along with the prescribed percentage of determined Government dues. In all such cases, the termination of the Registration of the Crusher Unit shall be deferred until the final decision of the appeal or the expiry of registration for that calendar year, whichever is earlier:

Provided further that pending appeal, the Crusher Unit may be allowed to apply for renewal of registration for the next year on payment of the prescribed fee, subject to fulfillment of all eligibility conditions.".

16. In the principal Act, for sections 19 and 20, the following sections shall be substituted, namely:-

Substitution of sections 19 and 20 of Punjab Act 6 of 2025.

"19. A Revision Application shall lie before the Government against the appellate order passed by the Director under sub-section (3) of section 17 of this Act, provided that the Revision Application has been filed within thirty days of the passing of such an order:

Revision.

Provided that where the appeal is decided by the Government, revision shall lie before the Minister of the Department:

Provided further that where the appellate authority has passed the order for failure to pay Government dues, the Crusher Owner or Crusher unit may, file revision application along with the prescribed percentage of determined government dues. In all such cases, the termination of the Registration of the Crusher Unit shall be deferred until the final decision on the revision application or the expiry of registration for that calendar year, whichever is earlier:

Provided further that pending revision application, the Crusher Unit may be allowed to apply for renewal of registration for the next year on payment of the prescribed fee, subject to fulfillment of all eligibility conditions.

20. (1) The Crusher Unit shall be allowed to sell the derivatives to the purchaser at a reasonable profit. However, the Government may at any stage regulate such sale price, by notification, in public interest.

Regulation of sale price.

(2) The Stockist or Retailer shall be allowed to sell the raw material and derivatives to the purchaser at a reasonable profit. However, the Government may at any stage regulate such sale price in the public interest.".

17. In the principal Act, section 21 shall be omitted.

Omission of section 21 of Punjab Act 6 of 2025.

18. In the principal Act, for sections 22 and 23, the following sections shall be substituted, namely: -

Substitution of sections 22 and 23 of Punjab Act 6 of 2025.

"22. (1) It shall be mandatory for every Crusher Unit to purchase Raw Material for the purpose of processing it from a legal source. Similarly, it shall be mandatory for every Stockist and Retailer to purchase material from a legal source. An online portal, or any other electronic or digital means, for undertaking such transactions may be prescribed.

Transactions through online portal.

(2) An online portal, or any other electronic or digital means, for accepting orders for sale by such Crusher Units, Stockists or Retailers may be prescribed.

23. (1) The District Mining Officer or an officer authorized by the Government, shall have the power to enter the premises of any Crusher Unit or Stockist or Retailer and seize any document(s), which in his opinion are likely to prove, or assist in proving, any violation of the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder and thereafter to draw up a seizure memo in the prescribed form.

Power to seize.

(2) The District Mining Officer or an officer authorized by the Government, shall have the power to enter the premises of any Crusher Unit or Stockist or Retailer and seize any unaccounted material lying with such a Crusher Unit or Stockist or Retailer. Such officer shall have the power to dispose of the unaccounted material in the open market through auction and deposit the proceeds with the Government Treasury, if the Crusher Unit or Crusher Owner, Stockist or Retailer fails to pay the prescribed penalty within the prescribed period:

Provided that no such seizure shall be affected unless the Crusher Owner, Stockist or Retailer has exhausted all remedies available under this Act or the rules made thereunder.".

19. In the principal Act, in section 24,-

Amendment in section 24 of Punjab Act 6 of 2025.

(i) for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely: -

"(1) The Assessing Authority shall be competent to issue a demand notice in the prescribed form, specifying the

amount of Government dues determined to be recoverable from any Crusher Unit, Stockist or Retailer:

Provided that no such notice shall be issued without affording an opportunity of hearing."; and

(ii) for sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:-

"(3) Any Crusher Unit or Stockist or Retailer who is found to be in possession of unaccounted material, or who has sold unaccounted material, as established by discrepancies in the returns or otherwise, shall be liable to pay such penalty as may be prescribed.".

Amendment in section 25 of Punjab Act 6 of 2025.

20. In the principal Act, in section 25, for sub-sections (2) and (3), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely: -

"(2) Whoever furnishes any fake, forged or fabricated Return shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine of one lakh rupees, or both.

(3) Action taken under the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder shall not preclude the authorities from taking action against defaulting entity or owner, under any other law for the time being in force.".

Amendment in section 29 of Punjab Act 6 of 2025.

21. In the principal Act, in section 29, for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted namely: -

"(1) The Punjab Crusher Policy, 2023 is hereby repealed. However, a lease of the unit after coming into force of this Act shall not absolve any person, against whom proceedings are pending under the said policy which shall continue unaffected by this Act."

Repeal and saving.

22. (1) The Punjab Regulation of Crusher Units, and Stockists and Retailers (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026 (Punjab Ordinance No. 1 of 2026), is hereby repealed.

(2) Nothwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the principal Act, as amended by the Ordinance referred to in sub-section (1), shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the principal Act, as amended by this Act.

Sd/-

B.B.S. TEJI,

Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab,

Department of Legal and Legislative Affairs.

3679/4-2026/Pb. Govt. Press, S.A.S. Nagar

PART-III
GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS
(CIVIL DEFENCE BRANCH)
NOTIFICATION

The 25th March, 2026

No.S.O. 14/C.A.27/1968/S.4/2026.- In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Civil Defence Act, 1968 (Central Act No. 27 of 1968), and all other powers enabling him in this behalf, the Governor of Punjab is pleased to constitute the Civil Defence Corps and declare the districts mentioned in the Table given below to the Civil Defence Districts, and further pleased to appoint the Deputy Commissioner of the District Concerned to be the ex-officio Controller, Civil Defence to command the Civil Defence Crops in the area of respective jurisdiction namely:-

TABLE

Serial No.	Name of the District	Serial No.	Name of the District
1.	Amritsar	13.	Mansa
2.	Barnala	14.	Moga
3.	Bathinda	15.	Patiala
4.	Faridkot	16.	Pathankot
5.	Fazilka	17.	Rupnagar
6.	Ferozepur	18.	Sangrur
7.	Gurdaspur	19.	S.A.S.Nagar
8.	Hoshiarpur	20.	S.B.S.Nagar
9.	Jalandhar	21.	Sri Fatehgarh Sahib
10.	Kapurthala	22.	Sri Muktsar Sahib
11.	Ludhiana	23.	Tarn Taran
12.	Malerkotla		

2. This notification shall supersede any notification issued earlier in this regard.

ALOK SHEKHAR,
Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Punjab,
Department of Home Affairs.

3679/04-2026/Pb. Govt. Press, S.A.S. Nagar

PART-III
GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY, WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
NOTIFICATION
The 02nd APRIL, 2026

S.O.15/C.A.18/2016/S.7/2026.- Whereas the use of Aadhaar number to establish identity enables individuals to receive subsidies, benefits and services in a convenient and seamless manner, obviates the need for multiplicity of documents to establish identity, simplifies processes and promotes transparency and efficiency;

And whereas the Department of Social Security, Women and Child Development(hereinafter referred to as the said Department) in the Government of Punjab (hereinafter referred to as the said Government) is administering the Mukh Mantri Mawan Dhian Satkar Yojna (hereinafter referred to as the said scheme);

And whereas financial benefit of Rs. 1000/- and Rs. 1500/- per month (hereinafter referred to as the said benefit) is given to all women in general and those belonging to Scheduled Castes Category, respectively (hereinafter referred to as the said beneficiaries) under the said scheme and the instructions and guidelines issued in respect thereof;

And whereas expenditure for the said scheme is incurred from the Consolidated Fund of the State of Punjab;

And whereas the said Department is desirous that the said Government, for the purpose of establishing identity of a beneficiary as a condition for the receipt of the said benefit, require that such beneficiary undergo authentication, or furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number or in the case of an individual to whom no Aadhaar number has been assigned, make an application for enrolment;

Now, therefore, in pursuance of the provisions of Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 (Central Act No.18 of 2016) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Government of Punjab hereby notifies the following, namely:—

1. (1) An individual desirous of availing of the said benefit under the said scheme shall be required to undergo authentication, or furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number.

(2) In case such an individual has not been assigned an Aadhaar number, he shall be required to make an application for enrolment.

(3) In accordance with the provisions of regulation 12 of the Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations, 2016, the said Department shall ensure enrolment of such beneficiaries who are yet to be enrolled, or update their Aadhaar details through appropriate measures, including coordination with Registrars and setting up enrolment centres at convenient locations or providing enrolment facilities by becoming a Registrar itself;

Provided that till such time an Aadhaar number is assigned to such beneficiary, he may establish his identity to avail of the said benefit, by presenting the following documents to which he is entitled and which are valid at the time of presentation, or, in case the software provided or authorised by the said Department for such identification supports electronic obtaining of information evidencing the contents of such documents from the database of the authorities dealing with the preparation or maintenance thereof, by giving his consent for so obtaining, namely:—

For beneficiaries aged 18 years or more to whom an Aadhaar number has not been assigned:

(a) The acknowledgement of the beneficiary having undergone the process of enrolment, provided by the operator at the enrolment centre, containing the EID; and

(b) Any one of the following documents, having the photograph of the beneficiary, namely:—

(i) Elector's Photo Identity Card issued by the Election Commission of India;

(ii) Ration card;

(iii) Caste certificate or domicile certificate, issued by a Gazetted officer who is an Executive Magistrate or a revenue officer of the State Government, not below the rank of Tahsildar;

(iv) Medical or insurance identity card issued by a government entity or public sector enterprise to a retired or serving public servant or his family member;

(v) Indian passport;

(vi) Certificate or statement of marks of matriculation or 10th class or higher secondary or 12th class, issued by a recognised Board of school education;

(vii) Identity card or other identity document issued to serving or retired public servant by a government entity or a public sector enterprise;

(viii) Disability certificate issued by notified medical authority under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017, or Unique Disability Identification (UDID) card issued by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (*Divyangjan*), Government of India;

(ix) Driving licence issued in India; or

(x) Any other document as the said Department may specify;

(4) An officer designated by the said Department in this behalf shall check in respect of the documents presented or the information evidencing the contents thereof under clause (3),—

(a) the status of the enrolment request by submitting the EID on my Aadhaar portal (https://myaadhaar.uidai.gov.in/portal) to confirm that the EID is valid and that the enrolment request does not stand rejected; and

(b) the other documents, and for this purpose, may take the assistance of and share the information presented with any government entity or an authority that deals with the preparation or maintenance of the information contained in such documents.

2. In order to enable beneficiaries to avail of the said benefits conveniently, the Department shall make all necessary steps to ensure wide publicity through media to make the beneficiaries aware of the requirement of Aadhaar number under the said scheme.

3. Where the authentication of the Aadhaar number of a beneficiary done through any of the biometric-based modes of authentication (namely, facial image, fingerprints or iris scan based authentication) fails due to any reason, such as poor quality of biometric information, the following remedial mechanisms shall be adopted, namely:—

(a) In case any particular biometric-based mode of authentication is not successful, any other mode of biometric-based authentication or one-time pin (OTP) based authentication shall, wherever feasible and admissible, be offered;

(b) In cases where biometric-based or OTP-based modes of authentication are not possible, benefits under the said scheme may, after establishing the genuineness of the Aadhaar number by doing offline verification of the digital signature certificate of UIDAI on the Aadhaar Secure Quick Response (QR) Code or the Aadhaar Paperless Offline e-KYC document, as the case may be, be given on the basis of any of the following, namely:

(i) An Aadhaar Secure Quick Response (QR) Code containing Aadhaar card, Aadhaar letter (*i.e.,* the letter issued to an Aadhaar number holder on generation of his Aadhaar number) or e-Aadhaar (*i.e.,* the password-protected electronic copy of Aadhaar letter downloadable from the website of UIDAI or accessible using its mAadhaar app), after its genuineness is established through offline verification by scanning the QR code using the Aadhaar QR Scanner or mAadhaar apps;

(ii) Aadhaar Paperless Offline e-KYCdocument (downloadable from the website of UIDAI or accessible using its mAadhaar app), after its genuineness is established through offline verification of the digital signature certificate of UIDAI on the document through the application

developed by the Ministry or Department or scheme implementing agency concerned for this purpose, in accordance with the details given in this regard on the website of UIDAI.

4. In order to ensure that *bonafide* beneficiaries who are aged 18 years or more are not deprived of the benefit due to them under the said scheme, the Department shall follow the exception handling mechanism specified in the Office Memorandum No. D-26011/04/2017- DBT, dated the 19th December, 2017 of the Direct Benefit Transfer Mission, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India (available on https://dbtbharat.gov.in).

5. This notification shall be effective from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

GURKIRAT KIRPAL SINGH, IAS
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB,
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY, WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT.

3679/04-2026/Pb. Govt. Press, S.A.S. Nagar